



MEETING SUMMARY

Date: August 13, 2003

Topics:

- FCAB role in meeting the community's post-closure information needs.

Attendees:

Fernald Citizens Advisory Board

Marvin Clawson
Steve DePoe
Pam Dunn
Bob Tabor
Tom Wagner

FRESH

Carol Schroer
Edwa Yocum

The Perspectives Group

Doug Sarno
David Bidwell

U.S. Department of Energy

Gary Stegner
Anne Wickham

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Donna Bohannon

Fluor Fernald

Joe Schomaker
Jeff Wagner
Sue Walpole
Eric Woods

Other

Jim Innis

General Updates

Doug Sarno called the meeting to order and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Joe Shomaker announced that he and Eric Woods had met with representatives of the Miami Tribe from Okalahoma. They continue to show an interest in reburying remains at the Fernald site, but they expressed concern regarding both the scope of contamination at the site and certification of areas as clean. Joe is putting together information to send to the Tribe. Representatives of the Shawnee will also visit the site before the end of August.

Eric Woods announced that designs have been submitted to DOE for two restoration projects. One project would complete the restoration of the Northern Pines area, west of Paddys Run. The other was for a second wetlands mitigation project, located on the northern end of the site between Pit 5 and the north woodlot. The designs should be available for review by the Stewardship Committee at its October meeting.

Eric also announced that talks have continued with the U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA regarding the development of an institutional control plan. DOE has proposed to submit a preliminary document to the U.S. EPA by November 15th. Members of the Stewardship Committee asked to review the document before it is submitted to the EPA, and Gary Stegner stated that the committee would be able to conduct an unofficial review. Gary reported that DOE Headquarters still desires public input on planning for long-term stewardship, and that Dave Geiser and Mike Owen are likely to visit each closure site in November, when the Office of Legacy Management is up and running. Gary also reported that the site has received no feedback from Headquarters on the Stewardship Plan that was submitted earlier this year.

Meeting Post-Closure Information Needs

Doug stated that it is important for the Stewardship Committee to address how the community's post-closure information needs will be met. In the past, the Fernald community has proposed the construction of a multi-use education facility (MUEF) to meet the community's needs. Doug stated that the Stewardship Committee should consider other options as well and discuss what role the FCAB should play in addressing this issue. Doug stressed that the FCAB is not likely to exist for more than another two years, and its activities will be reduced over that time. Funding for the FCAB has been reduced in FY04 and is likely to be cut in half for FY05.

Doug briefly reviewed the Board's past decisions and recommendations regarding post-closure information and education. The Stakeholders Vision for the Future of Fernald states that public education should be the primary future use of the site. The FCAB recommended criteria for achieving that vision also focus on public education and propose the construction of an education facility. The FCAB's 2002 report, *Telling the Story of Fernald*, outlined the critical role of information in community-based stewardship and the continued protection of human health and the environment. That report also presented the types of information that were identified as important by the Fernald Community and conceptual plans for a MUEF. Doug stated that these recommendations by the FCAB has not resulted in a clear plan for how post-closure education and outreach will be achieved. He stated that DOE has not committed to providing information beyond what is required by law, and settlement of the NRD lawsuit is not a definite funding source.

Gary reviewed a handout that presented several options and cost estimates on how DOE could provide access to site records. These options include building an on-site MUEF, building a county library branch on the site, leasing space in a nearby building, renting space in a township building, using space in the soon-to-be-closed Ross Middle School, or the relocation of trailers currently used for offices at the site. Gary stated that storage of the current Administrative Record for the site, plus the artifacts managed by Joe Shomaker, would require about 1500 square feet. He reminded the group that DOE is obligated to provide some degree of access to records, but that obligation has not been defined clearly. He will discuss this issue with the Office of Legacy Management relatively soon. Gary reported that representatives from the Hamilton County Parks District visited the site recently, and may be interested in managing the natural resources at the site. He reminded the

group that the DOE Grand Junction Office had been designated as the steward for the on-site disposal facility (OSDF) and other controls.

The Stewardship Committee members discussed Gary's presentation and how to meet the community's need for information. Specific discussion points are listed below:

- Information and public education resources should be available at the site, even if it means that a less-developed building would be used.
- Local townships would likely welcome any funds from DOE to develop a facility. Crosby Township should have an opportunity to compete for these funds. However, Crosby Township already has the Senior Center and a relatively new library building.
- Storage for records and artifacts could be designed to use space more efficiently. Moveable shelving would allow materials to be stored in a much smaller amount of space.
- Nearby universities may be interested in setting up a satellite campus at the site, as a location for teaching environmental courses of study.
- Any files maintained at the site would be copies of official records. The community will need to determine which records need to be copied before official records are sent to a storage facility.
- There may be unique opportunities to fund the construction of a facility if it was designed as a model "green building" (i.e., it was constructed with environmentally preferable materials).
- A facility could also serve the needs of site stewards and be used for the storage of equipment.

Steve DePoe suggested that over the next year the FCAB should serve two functions regarding this issue.

Stewardship Committee members agreed that these were appropriate roles for the FCAB:

1. The FCAB should develop more concrete recommendations or criteria to guide DOE on how to provide post-closure information to the community.
2. The FCAB should serve as "midwife" to a new organization that would assume community leadership on this issue. This could entail bringing interested organizations and individuals together to discuss their interest in managing outreach to the community.

Doug stated that the FCAB could work towards holding a workshop with interested parties in the next three to four months. This would require that someone develop relationships with potential attendees. The group suggested teachers, education institutions, cultural institutions, environmental organizations, municipal leaders, and site retirees as possible attendees of this workshop. Committee members discussed the need for the FCAB to clearly define community needs and set minimal criteria for what was acceptable to them before holding this workshop. Eric Woods stressed that any new or existing organization should maintain a relationship with the Grand Junction Office and natural resources steward for the site.

Steve stated that he envisions Fernald Living History, Inc. being involved with this issue, and that the organization would discuss the topic at its meeting on September 2nd. He noted that Fernald Living History had not yet obtained 501(c)3 status, but he plans to pursue it. He stated that providing information to the Fernald community is consistent with the organization's mission.

Doug stated that he and David Bidwell would work on a strategic plan for how the FCAB should address this issue and have it available at the September 11th Stewardship Committee meeting. Then, the topic would be discussed at the FCAB Annual Retreat on September 13.

Next Meeting

The Stewardship Committee will hold its next meeting on Thursday, September 11, 2003, in Trailer 214 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.